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# FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

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Foreign Agricultural Service Washington D.C.



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FLM 13-63  
September 1963

## WORLD MEAT TRADE

### RECORD HIGH IN 1962

World trade in meat has increased by 50 percent since 1953. Shipments of meat from leading exporting countries were 7.2 billion pounds in 1962, an increase of 11 percent over 1961 and 21 percent above the 1956-60 average. The increased trade reflects rising world production and increased meat demand in deficit producing countries.

Although many countries had some volume of trade, a relatively few handled most of the commerce. Four countries--New Zealand, Denmark, Argentina, and Australia--accounted for about 60 percent of the world's meat exports. Each of these countries shipped over 1 billion pounds. Eighty-seven percent of the total world meat exports was shipped by 11 countries, each having shipments in excess of 100 million pounds.

Exports in 1962 were considerably above average in Australia, Denmark, New Zealand, France, Yugoslavia, Ireland, Uruguay, Mexico, Sweden, and Paraguay. Shipments from Australia rose from an average of 726 million pounds in 1956-60 to 1,149 million pounds in 1962 and the country's percentage of the world's total trade rose from 12.2 to 15.9. Other countries showing marked increases in exports during the same period were: France from 163 million to 451 million; Yugoslavia 127 million to 301 million; and Ireland 181 to 292 million pounds.

Argentina and Australia accounted for about half of the beef exports. Denmark was by far the major pork exporter with 45 percent of the trade in 1962. New Zealand dominated world trade in lamb and mutton and was the origin of about three-fourths of the total world shipments.

(This Circular contains more detailed information than the summary of similar title published in the monthly supplemental issue of World Agricultural Production and Trade, August 1963.

MEAT 1/: Principal exporters and importers, average 1956-60, annual 1961-62, and percent of shipments

Countries	Amount			Percent of total		
	Average	1961	1962	Average	1961	1962
	:1956-60	: 2/	: 2/	:1956-60	:1961	: 1962 2/
	: Mil.lb.	: Mil.lb.	: Mil.lb.	: Percent	: Percent	: Percent
Exporting countries:						
Australia.....	726	867	1,149	12.2	13.3	15.9
Argentina.....	1,369	980	1,197	22.9	15.0	16.5
Denmark.....	913	1,043	1,134	15.3	16.0	15.7
New Zealand.....	954	1,043	1,062	16.0	16.0	14.7
France.....	163	352	451	2.7	5.4	6.2
Netherlands.....	374	382	373	6.3	5.8	5.2
Yugoslavia.....	127	251	301	2.1	3.9	4.2
Ireland.....	181	309	292	3.0	4.7	4.0
Uruguay.....	103	113	152	1.7	1.7	2.1
Mexico.....	58	92	107	1.0	1.4	1.5
United States.....	145	112	103	2.4	1.7	1.4
Sweden.....	56	46	88	.9	.7	1.2
Brazil.....	99	111	85	1.7	1.7	1.1
Canada.....	105	96	81	1.8	1.5	1.1
Paraguay.....	38	44	72	.6	.7	1.0
Others.....	564	683	590	9.4	10.5	8.2
Total.....	5,975	6,524	7,237	100.0	100.0	100.0
Importing countries:						
United Kingdom.....	3,414	3,290	3,385	56.6	50.8	46.1
United States.....	890	1,327	1,850	14.8	20.5	25.2
Germany, West.....	245	284	367	4.1	4.4	5.0
Italy.....	280	144	275	4.6	2.2	3.7
U.S.S.R. ....	342	139	169	5.7	2.1	2.3
Canada.....	75	131	131	1.2	2.0	1.8
Spain.....	5	26	127	.1	.4	1.7
Belgium and Luxem- bourg.....	58	84	94	1.0	1.3	1.3
Switzerland.....	34	51	88	.5	.8	1.2
Sweden.....	41	61	78	.7	.9	1.1
Netherlands.....	47	67	69	.8	1.0	.9
Greece.....	41	60	67	.7	.9	.9
Others.....	556	813	646	9.2	12.7	8.8
Total.....	6,030	6,477	7,346	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ All meat converted to carcass weight equivalent--includes beef and veal, mutton and lamb, goat and horsemeat, except live animals, edible variety meat, lard, rabbit and poultry meat. 2/ Preliminary.



MEAT 1/: International trade, selected countries, average 1956-60, annual 1960-62

Continent and country	Average		1960		1961		1962 2/		Percent change			
	1956-60								1960		1962	
	Exports : Million pounds	Imports : Million pounds	Exports : Million pounds	Imports : Million pounds	Exports : Million pounds	Imports : Million pounds	Exports : Million pounds	Imports : Million pounds	Exports : Percent	Imports : Percent	Exports : Percent	Imports : Percent
North America:												
Canada.....	105.3	75.1	99.1	90.1	96.1	131.0	80.5	130.5	-24	+74	-16	--
United States.....	145.3	889.7	114.7	1,049.3	111.7	1,327.1	103.2	1,850.4	-29	+108	-8	+39
Honduras.....	---	.5	---	.3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Mexico.....	58.3	4.8	74.4	2.5	91.7	.2	106.8	1.3	+83	-73	+16	+550
Cuba.....	3/	34.8	---	24.6	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Dominican Republic.....	3.5	1.3	5.7	.9	3.5	.5	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total North America 4/.....	312.4	1,006.2	293.9	1,167.9	303.0	1,459.4	294.0	1,982.7	-6	+97	-3	+36
South America:												
Argentina.....	1,368.9	---	983.3	---	980.3	---	1,197.1	---	-13	--	+22	--
Brazil.....	99.1	5/ .7	37.2	3/	110.7	84.9	---	---	-14	--	-23	--
Chile.....	4.3	7.0	2.6	9.7	6.4	22.1	---	19.7	--	+181	--	-11
Paraguay.....	37.9	---	39.4	---	44.2	---	5/ 71.5	---	+89	--	+62	--
Peru.....	---	12.4	---	3.4	---	9.9	---	---	---	---	---	---
Uruguay.....	102.9	---	153.2	---	113.1	---	151.8	---	+48	--	+34	--
Venezuela.....	---	22.0	---	37.1	---	26.7	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total South America 4/.....	1,613.1	42.1	1,215.7	50.2	1,254.7	58.7	1,510.3	56.3	-6	+34	+20	-4
Europe:												
Austria.....	3.0	11.4	10.4	20.5	2.6	12.1	2.0	11.9	-33	-4	-23	-2
Belgium and Luxembourg.....	36.9	57.6	48.9	68.8	42.1	83.8	44.9	93.7	+22	+7	+63	+12
Denmark.....	93.1	---	1,045.6	---	1,043.3	---	1,134.0	---	+24	--	+9	--
Finland.....	2.6	3.1	2.9	5.3	1.3	11.9	1.3	1.6	-50	-48	--	-37
France.....	163.4	104.1	266.4	128.0	351.9	139.6	451.3	69.6	+176	-33	+28	-50
Germany, West.....	47.0	244.5	64.2	252.8	39.8	283.6	36.7	366.5	-22	+50	-8	+29
Greece.....	---	41.1	---	54.6	---	59.7	---	66.9	--	+61	--	+12
Iceland.....	6.0	---	6.7	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ireland.....	180.7	---	240.8	---	309.3	---	291.7	---	+61	--	-6	--
Italy.....	17.9	279.9	23.3	360.1	25.6	144.1	23.4	275.1	-2	+31	+91	-9
Netherlands.....	374.1	49.4	453.6	46.0	382.0	67.0	373.1	69.3	--	+20	-2	+3
Norway.....	3.1	7.4	1.2	8.2	6.4	8.6	18.7	6.9	+503	-7	+192	-20
Portugal.....	3.3	9.2	2.3	17.1	1.8	23.4	.8	14.0	-76	+52	-56	-40
Spain.....	.9	4.9	1.1	27.9	2.5	25.5	1.2	127.1	+33	+2,498	-52	+398
Sweden.....	56.2	41.2	59.4	37.0	45.6	61.2	87.8	77.6	+56	+68	+93	+27
Switzerland.....	.2	34.4	.2	42.5	.1	50.7	.1	88.0	-50	+156	--	+74
United Kingdom.....	39.0	3,413.7	36.4	3,512.2	41.6	3,290.0	41.4	3,384.5	+6	-1	--	+3
Total West Europe.....	1,847.4	4,301.9	2,263.4	4,581.0	2,295.9	4,261.2	2,508.4	4,652.7	+36	+8	+9	+9
Bulgaria.....	37.5	5/ 17.4	38.6	33.4	29.8	10.8	---	---	--	--	--	--
Czechoslovakia.....	5/ 1.6	128.4	---	198.5	---	187.3	---	---	--	--	--	--
Germany, East 1/.....	5/ 38.9	251.3	14.1	229.3	3.5	237.0	---	---	--	--	--	--
Hungary 8/.....	45.0	24.9	46.8	57.0	44.5	43.0	---	9/ 42.0	--	+69	--	--
Poland.....	222.5	5/ 52.7	250.3	49.6	375.3	21.6	---	---	--	--	-25	--
Roumania.....	127.3	7.5	197.8	5.0	250.7	6.2	301.4	.6	+137	-92	+20	-91
Total East Europe 4/.....	472.8	482.2	547.6	572.8	703.8	505.9	656.9	499.3	+39	+4	-7	-1
Total Europe 4/.....	2,320.2	4,784.1	2,811.0	5,153.8	2,999.7	4,767.1	3,165.3	5,152.0	+36	+8	+6	+8
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia).....	177.9	342.2	179.1	211.9	162.1	138.6	---	168.7	--	--	--	+22
Africa:												
Ghana.....	---	29.5	---	26.2	---	27.2	---	---	--	--	--	--
Rhodesia & Nyasaland, Fed. of.....	14.8	11.0	20.0	7.4	22.6	10.0	21.9	7.7	+48	-30	-3	-23
South Africa, Republic of.....	32.8	10.0	33.2	8.4	---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--
Total Africa 4/.....	47.6	50.5	53.2	42.0	55.8	45.6	55.1	43.3	+16	-14	-1	-5
Asia:												
Hong Kong.....	3/	19.8	3/	22.9	3/	27.4	3/	22.8	--	+15	--	-17
Israel.....	---	24.3	---	12.9	---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--
Japan.....	.8	29.9	.9	66.3	.1	64.5	.1	62.2	-87	+108	--	-4
Malaya.....	.9	20.5	.8	21.9	.8	14.1	---	---	--	--	--	--
Philippines.....	---	52.6	---	42.6	---	26.8	---	43.3	--	-18	--	+62
Total Asia 4/.....	1.7	147.1	1.7	166.6	.9	145.7	.9	155.3	-47	+6	--	+7
Oceania:												
Australia.....	725.9	---	747.9	---	867.3	---	1,149.3	---	+58	--	+33	--
New Zealand.....	954.0	---	1,059.7	---	1,042.8	---	1,062.3	---	+11	--	+2	--
Total Oceania.....	1,679.9	---	1,807.6	---	1,910.1	---	2,211.6	---	+32	--	+16	--
Total World 4/.....	5,974.9	6,030.0	6,183.1	6,580.5	6,524.2	6,476.5	7,237.2	7,346.3	+21	+22	+11	+13

1/ All meat converted to carcass weight equivalent--includes beef and veal, pork, mutton and lamb, goat and horsemeat; excludes live animals, edible variety meat, lard, rabbit and poultry meat. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500,000 pounds. 4/ Includes allowances for any missing data for countries shown. 5/ Less than a 5-year average. 6/ Shipments to major importing countries. 7/ Probably includes variety meat, game and poultry. 8/ Excludes bacon and canned meat. 9/ From major exporting countries.

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Australian exports were largely beef, and in 1962, 74 percent was marketed in the United States and 17 percent in the United Kingdom. The proportion going to the U.S. market has increased sharply since 1958. In 1962, total shipments were approximately double those of the previous year.

Exports in 1962 were below the 1956-60 average in Argentina, the Netherlands, the United States, Brazil and Canada. U.S. exports declined from 2.4 percent of the world total for the 1956-60 average to 1.4 percent of the total in 1962. Argentina's share of world exports dropped from 22.9 percent in 1956-60 to 16.5 percent of the total in 1962 and in the latter year was only slightly larger than Australia's.

The United Kingdom and the United States are the leading meat importers, and in 1962 these 2 countries took 71 percent of total world trade. The United States has increased its share of world meat imports to over 25 percent in 1962 compared with 14.8 percent of the total in 1956-60. Meanwhile, imports by the United Kingdom decreased slightly, and its share of total imports declined from 56.6 percent to 46.1 percent. The United Kingdom imported 3.4 billion pounds of meat in 1962 compared with U.S. imports of 1.8 billion pounds. West Germany, Italy, the USSR, Canada, and Spain were other countries importing over 100 million pounds of meat in 1962.

The six EEC countries have increased both exports and imports of meat. On the average in 1956-60, the EEC was a marginal net importer, with imports of 735 million pounds yearly and exports of 639 million pounds. These countries became net exporters in 1962, shipping 929 million pounds and receiving 874 million pounds of meat. The combined meat production of the six EEC countries that year totaled about 18 billion pounds, exceeding that of any country except the United States. The Netherlands and France had a considerable surplus for export. Production in the other 4 countries was not enough to satisfy the demand.

Most of the meat imports into the European Common Market consisted of beef supplied largely by Argentina.

North America increased its dependence on imports taking 2.0 billion pounds of meat in 1962 compared with an average of 1.0 billion in 1956-60. The United States and Canada are net importers while Mexico remains a net exporter.

The United States has been importing unusually large amounts of boneless frozen beef from Australia, New Zealand, and Ireland and large amounts of boneless mutton from Australia. Canned hams are being imported from Europe and Canada and canned beef from four South American countries--Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Brazil.

MEAT 1/: Net trade, leading countries, average 1956-60,  
annual 1961 and 1962

Country	Net exports			Net imports		
	Average	1961 2/	1962 2/	Average	1961 2/	1962 2/
	1956-60	1956-60	1956-60	1956-60	1956-60	1956-60
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.
North America:						
Canada.....	30	---	---	---	34	50
Cuba.....	---	---	---	35	---	---
Mexico.....	---	---	---	54	92	106
United States.....	---	---	---	744	1,215	1,747
Total North America.....	---	---	---	694	1,156	1,689
South America:						
Argentina.....	1,369	980	1,197	---	---	---
Brazil.....	98	111	85	---	---	---
Paraguay.....	38	44	72	---	---	---
Uruguay.....	103	113	152	---	---	---
Venezuela.....	---	---	---	22	27	---
Total South America.....	1,571	1,196	1,454	---	---	---
Europe:						
Belgium and Luxembourg...	---	---	---	21	42	49
Denmark.....	913	1,043	1,134	---	---	---
France.....	59	212	382	---	---	---
Germany, West.....	---	---	---	198	244	330
Greece.....	---	---	---	41	60	67
Ireland.....	181	309	292	---	---	---
Italy.....	---	---	---	262	119	252
Netherlands.....	325	315	304	---	---	---
Portugal.....	---	---	---	6	22	13
Spain.....	---	---	---	4	23	126
Sweden.....	15	16	10	---	---	---
Switzerland.....	---	---	---	34	51	88
United Kingdom.....	---	---	---	3,375	3,248	3,343
Total West Europe.....	---	---	---	2,455	1,965	2,144
Bulgaria.....	31	19	---	---	---	---
Czechoslovakia.....	---	---	---	127	187	---
Germany, East.....	---	---	---	212	234	---
Hungary.....	20	2	---	---	---	42
Poland.....	170	354	---	---	---	---
Yugoslavia.....	120	244	301	---	---	---
Total East Europe.....	1	198	158	---	---	---
Total Europe.....	---	---	---	2,454	1,767	1,987
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) :	---	24	---	164	---	169
Africa:						
Ghana.....	---	---	---	30	27	---
Rhodesia & Nyasaland,	---	---	---	---	---	---
Federation of.....	4	13	14	---	---	---
So. Africa, Rep. of.....	23	---	---	---	---	---
Total Africa.....	---	10	12	3	---	---
Asia:						
Hong Kong.....	---	---	---	20	27	23
Israel.....	---	---	---	24	---	---
Japan.....	---	---	---	29	64	62
Malaya.....	---	---	---	20	13	---
Philippines.....	---	---	---	53	27	43
Total Asia.....	---	---	---	145	145	154
Oceania:						
Australia.....	726	867	1,149	---	---	---
New Zealand.....	954	1,043	1,062	---	---	---
Total Oceania.....	1,680	1,910	2,211	---	---	---

1/ All meat converted to carcass weight equivalent--includes beef and veal, pork, mutton and lamb, goat and horse meat; excludes live animals, edible variety meat, lard, rabbit and poultry meat. 2/ Preliminary.

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South America remains a large net exporter of meats, primarily from Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, and Paraguay. Most of the shipments are to the United Kingdom and other West European countries, but large amounts of canned beef move to the United States. Chile, Peru, and Venezuela are net importers of meats and obtain their import requirements mostly from other South American countries.

In Western Europe, the major meat exporting countries in 1962 were Denmark, France, the Netherlands, and Ireland. These countries export primarily to meat-deficit countries in the same general areas. However, Ireland ships large amounts of beef, and Denmark and the Netherlands ship large amounts of canned hams and shoulders to the United States. In 1962, 70 percent of total U.S. imports of canned hams and shoulders were from Denmark, the Netherlands, and West Germany. Ireland continues to increase its shipments of beef and veal to the United States, with the tonnage reaching 70.7 million pounds in 1962.

East European meat exports declined slightly in 1962. Yugoslavia and Poland were net exporters but Hungary apparently was a net importer. The Soviet Union is estimated to have imported 169 million pounds of meat in 1962, a slight increase from the previous year. Its cattle numbers are estimated at 87 million head for 1963, up 6 percent over 1962. Meat production reached a record of 15 billion pounds in 1962.

Meat trade in Africa in 1962 declined slightly from the preceding year. Exports reached 55 million pounds, while imports totaled 43 million pounds. Southern Rhodesia was the leading exporter.

The Asiatic countries, excluding Communist China, are net importers of meats. Japan, the Philippines and Hong Kong have the largest trade. Japan is at present increasing its livestock and meat production and is making arrangements to begin beef exports. However, it is likely to continue to be a large net importer. Imports into Asia are mostly from Oceania.

The principal Oceanic countries--New Zealand and Australia--are large meat exporters and virtually prohibit imports. Each country shipped over 1 billion pounds in 1962, and combined shipments by the two countries accounted for 30.6 percent of total world trade. The United Kingdom still is the largest receiver of meats from these countries. However, since 1957 the United States has imported increasing amounts of boneless beef, mutton, and lamb from them. Both countries have been progressive in increasing production and in developing new markets for meat products.





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